

God and Government (Mark 12:13-17)

Proposition: Every Christian can have a Biblical world view concerning God and Government by understanding the three foundational principals found in this important scene in Jesus life.

- I. **A Present Conflict** (Vs. 13)
 - A. The Scene of Conflict (Vs. 13)
 - B. The Sections of Conflict (Vs. 13)
- II. **A Piercing Question** (Vs. 14a-d)
 - A. The Set-Up of the Question (Vs. 14e-15a)
 - B. The substance of the Question (Vs. 15b)
- III. **A Preeminent Conclusion** (Vs. 15c-17)
 - A. A Telling Conclusion (Vs. 15c)
 - B. A Truthful Conclusion (Vs. 15d-17)

God + Government (Mark 12:13-17)

A city slicker was driving down a country road when he saw a farmer tending feverishly to a cow off in a field. The City Slicker stopped the car, walked out to where the farmer was, he saw him pulling feverishly at what looked like two calf legs coming out of the back of this heaving and groaning mother cow. At an instant he began to help the farmer and in a moment the calf was out and walking around. Watching the calf they smiled and introduced themselves. They began to talk about the calf... The city slicker said... I just have one question, How fast do you think that calf was going when it hit the back of that cow?

The problem in that story is a world view problem. A world view is the philosophical lens which we look through and perceive the world around us. A materialistic or naturalistic world view sees the world absent of a supernatural God. Biblical world view, is one which is explained by the Word of God. Today there are many world view workshops and conferences you can attend by many.

I. A Present Conflict (13) - They say

politics makes for strange bed fellows. Well, that's what we have here coming to Jesus with their questions trying

to trip him, find fault. Strange men fellows. Look

A. The Scene of Conflict - This seems to be another round of questioning to cause the Lord Jesus to falter and be subject to criticism or legal action. This was the hot button issue of the day. The gentile power house of Rome ruled most of the known world of that day. And from that known world they collected taxes: Grain tax $\frac{1}{10}$ of grain, $\frac{1}{5}$ of wine or oil, Income tax: 1% of income, Poll tax one denarius per person just for the privilege of existing. Needless to say these taxes did not sit well w/ the Jews of the day. Up rising and bloodshed had occur.

B. The Sections of Conflict - Notice the two groups. The Pharisees were the ultra religious that anxiously and outwardly tried to conform to all the laws and traditions of the scriptures. It would sicken them to the highest degree to have to pay money to support a pagan and idolatrous government. The Herodians were followers of Herod who was given the area of Palestine and appointed tributary King. During great freedom of rule, but under the control of Rome. These two sections

II. A Piercing Question - These two groups did not converge on each other just to exchange pleasantries. They had a question that would back Jesus into

1) ...learned men who can teach you the principals and the applications of a Biblical world view. Well here in our text Jesus is teaching here how to have a biblical world view of government. How do you relate as a Christian to the governing body of our nation? What do you think about the government? Like the elderly gentleman who took his Social Security check to the bank. Although it was clearly marked, "Do not fold, staple or mutilate," the old gentleman had folded it and creased it pretty severely. The teller at the bank cautioned him, "You should be more careful with your check. The government doesn't like it when you mutilate your check like that." The old fellow shook his head and said, "Well, there are some things that the government does that I don't like either." Every Christian can have a Biblical world view concerning God and Government by understanding the three foundational principals found in this important scene in Jesus life.

2) ...had occurred over these taxes. Could it be that we find our selves in conflict with our ruling body over issues in our day? This is a very applicable scripture for today.

3) ...two sections of conflict were now joined together with the one intention to eliminate Jesus. We live in a world that seems to find convenient bed fellows in order to defame and tear down the cause of Christ.

1) Proverbs 29:5 A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet.

2) ...homosexual. We know you love your children and you wouldn't want them to catch a disease and die. So you should be the first in line to provide birth control to your teens! You don't want your daughters life ruined at such a young age with a pregnancy do you?

3) ...traitor or a coward. Aren't you glad you have a Bible? Take it hold it up wave it at the world. When ever the view points and the social tests and political arguments come we can grab our Bibles, study them and be settled once and for all on the issue by what God says about it! Homosexuality is and abomination. Fornication is a sin against God and our own body. Abortion from the conceived embryo to the thirist trimester unborn child is murder!

4) Psalms 2:1-4 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

a checkmate position in which they could be rid of

A. The Set-up of the Question - 14a-d -

Notice their words. How sweet, and right and sensible they are. They came to Jesus with a flattering set up, ch

hope that his guard would drop into a dumfounded response to such a penetrating, positioning question. Pr 29:5 warns

This could be prompting the crowd, causing others to listen closely to what Jesus would say. The church of the Lord Jesus the same way. We know that Christianity is a loving way of God. You ought to love & welcome, & here the hands of

B. The Substance of the Question - Vs 14e - 15a

After all this buttering up, they bring out the Big Gun. The question is it lawful or not. Here is where they think they have him. If Jesus said "No" the Herodians who were pro Rome pro taxes would have labeled him a "rebel" and would put him to death for insurrection against Rome. If he said "Yes" then he would fall out of favor with the people the scribes and Pharisees feared. He cannot please and he is procured under Jewish Law as a traitor. (3)

III. A Preeminent Conclusion - I am

reminded of the words of Ps 2:1-4 Why do the heathen rage and the people

What a wise Saviour.

A. A Telling Conclusion ^{15b} Jesus took
and look at them and knew the desires
and intents of their hearts. Hypocrites
Those that wear a mask. For the
Pharisees a mask of self rightness
ness. Who would speak about the
idolity of paying taxes to Rome and all the
while practice it in their pious self worship
Herodians who who lead the charge for
the right of Rome to tax and would gladly
kill them all in lust to completely rule Palush
We have hypocrites to say who speak about the

B. A Truthful Conclusion

Render to Caesar... The coin
had a Portrall of The Roman
Caesar. Coinage denotes power and
rule. It also denote possession.

The image on the coin was the owner
of the coin. Rome's rule was a time of
great Peace Pax Romana. Government
is ordained of God Romans 13:1-2. We
have an obligation to government. But the
image of God is stamped on the individual
God is ruler overall. Without diminishing

IV. Close - in the least the necessity
of fulfilling our obligations in both
areas. it must be kept in mind that
when ever these two loyalties are in discrepan
ce our paramount duty is to God.

1) ...virtues of life and liberty and yet in the end want to dictate who lives and who dies! Political leaders which propounds the necessity to give and serve the community, when in reality they greedily give so little of themselves. St. Louis City Prosecutor George Peach once spearheaded a crusade against prostitution and pornography. He led a crackdown on the rental of adult movies at video stores and was a strong supporter of sting operations to prevent prostitution. In 1992, Peach was charged with soliciting an undercover police officer posing as a prostitute at the St. Louis Airport Marriott Hotel. Mortimer Caplin was the head of the Internal Revenue Service from 1961 to 1964. After resisting the IRS for years, he finally agreed to pay \$308,408 in back taxes for his federal income taxes from 1980 to 1982. From Elliot Spitzer prostitution to tax cheat Tim Geitner. Hypocrites!

2) Romans 13:1-2 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.